Autopsy Discloses Tumor in Brain

of Sniper

Post 8/3/66

Police Withhold Three Notes Left By Slayer of 15

From News Dispatches

AUSTIN, Tex., Aug. 2 A pathologist and a psychiatrist reveoled today that sniper Charles J. Whitman suffered from a brain tumor and had said four months ago he was "thinking of going up on the University of Texas tower with a deer rifle and start shooting people."

But the psychiatrist said the 25-year-old killer of 15 persons looked like "the All-American Boy" and betrayed no signs of psychosis in the March 29 interview.

The tumor was found in an autopsy, near the main stem of the brain, and located so that it could have caused the severe headaches that Whitman mentioned in notes he left behind.

Requested Autopsy

It was revealed that Whitman himself, in one of three rambling notes found after his death, requested an autopsy to determine what caused him to kill his wife and mother.

Police refused to release the full contents of the notes.

Experts were divided on whether the tumor contributed to what the FBI said was possibly the greatest mass murder in American history. The dead included, besides Whitman's wife and mother, 13 persons gunned down from the tower before police stormed it and killed Whitman. Another 31 persons were wounded.

The psychiatrist, Dr. Maurice Dean Heatly of the University's Student Health Center, said he did not report the statement about shooting people from the tower because he thought Whitman did not mean it.

'Oozing With Hostility'

Heatly said Whitman was "oozing with hostility" at the two-hour interview, but expressions of violence involving the familiar landmark tower were not unusual among students, and the statement about shooting people seemed a "transient thought" with him.

"I recall very vividly something about him suggested the All-American Boy," the psychiatrist said. "He looked every inch the role of professional football player."

Rated A Good Guy

However, the psychiatrist pictured Whitman as a totally different sort of person from the young man known to neighbors, classmates and

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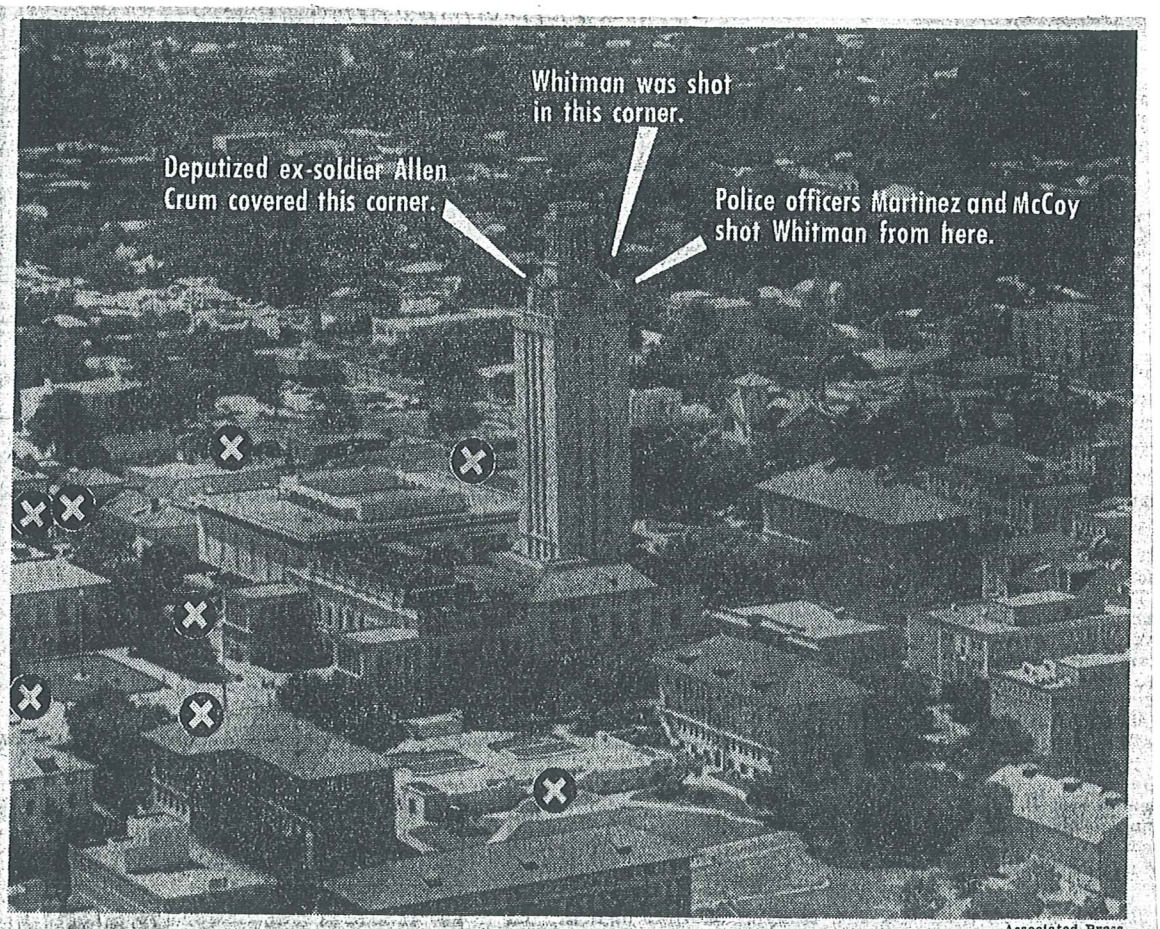
World press moralizes about the state of U.S. society. *Page A3.*



Associated Press

Air view pinpoints key locations in sniper killings at University of Texas. Crosses are where victims were slain.

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Autopsy Finds Small Tumor Pressing on Sniper's Brain

friends, who universally called him a "good guy."

Dr. Heatly said Whitman "readily admits having overwhelming periods of hostility with a very minimum of provocation."

The psychiatrist said his references to voing on the tower and shooting people were "vivid."

Heatly said there were "no psychosis is smyptoms at all "and he would not have classified Whitman as a psychopath at that time. He also said students often talked of violent deeds which never came about, and Whitman did not seem to be an exception.

"It was sort of like saying, 'I get so mad that I could do something,'" Heatly said.

But he said the statement about shooting people from the tower was the only direct quote he put in his notes from the interview.

The psychiatrist said Whitman then made an appointment for a subsequent visit, but broke it.

"The real precipitating factor for this initial visit after being on the campus for several years seemed to stem from the separation of his parents some 30 days ago," Heatly said.

He said Whitman accused his father of being bruital, but then confessed that he had beaten his wife on two occasions. He also said Whitman was seeking to excel his father and was much concerned that his achievements at the University were not what he would have liked.

Dr. Charles Le Maistre, University Vice Chancellor for Health affairs defended Heatly's judgment.

"Dr. Heatly's conclusion on March 29 that there was no indication at that time that Whitman was a danger to either himself or the community was consistent with the impressions of his teachers, his employer and his associates," Le Maistre said.

Said Dr. Heatly, "the youth could talk for long periods of time and develop overt hostility while talking, and then during the same narration may show signs of weeping."

Brain Tumor Found

The brain tumor was revealed by Dr. C. De Chenar in an autopsy report. He said it was located near the main brain stem, in a position to affect the part which senses pain.

Justice of the Peace Jerry Dellana said the pecan-sized tumor affected "the sensory passages that you feel pain with. There was pressure there that could have caused intense pain—headaches—that could have indirectly caused or contributed to his actions."

Dellana said De Chenar stressed that the tumor "did not have anything to do with the part of the brain that affected logical thinking.

(In Washington, medical experts said there was little chance the tumor prompted the murder spree. An expert at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP) said, "violent psychotic behavior is extremely rare in persons with a brain tumor."

(Dr. Daniel Ruge, a Chicago neuro-surgeon, said "there is no question that brain tumors can cause personality changes but I've never heard of them causing violence.")

Police Chief Robert A. Miles said that on advice of attorneys Whitman's notes would not be made public and "may never be released."

Miles said information about the case probably would be presented to the grand jury "but I don't know if there is anything for the grand ajury to act on."

Going to Grand Jury

District Attorney Tom Blackwell said the grand jury would hear the information Thursday.

The FBI was reported to have taken over a roll of color film in one of two cameras found in Whitman's apartment along with the body of his wife, Kathleen, 23. His mother, who had separated from his father and was living in Austin, was found shot to death in her apartment in another section of town.

Along with the two cameras, Whitman left a neat note: "Have the film developed in these cameras. Thank you. Charles J. Whitman."

Police said the black and white film was developed and showed various poses of Whitman at his house, at a lake, and with a pet dog. The color film was turned over to the FBI, police said.

Associated Press

SNIPER'S END—Charles J. Whitman lies dead on the tower's observation platform.